

Relative Rank Is Asked for Army Nurses

By MARY JOHNSTONE

"BRING in the gassed cases first," directed a nurse at a base hospital in France.

"If you have authority to give me orders, where's your badge?" was the response of the hospital corps man.

And the nurse was helpless, though she knew that the needs of the gassed men were urgent beyond the needs of other casualties. She knew also that by army regulations she had the authority which the man questioned. What she lacked was an outward and visible sign of that authority. And because she had no insignia that spelled authority to the man her "boys," who were suffering, were deprived of the prompt relief that was their due.

It is to secure rank, title and insignia for members of the Army Nurse Corps that the Lewis-Raker bill, now in committee, has been framed. The National Committee on Rank for Nurses is sitting up nights and working overtime to pull it out of committee and get it passed this session of Congress.

This Means Only Power—Not Money

The bill asks for relative rank only, and not an absolute commission; nor does it ask for the pay that a commission would carry. The title and insignia of rank will show so plainly that no soldier will question the nurse's authority to carry on her work efficiently and promptly.

Those familiar with nursing conditions in our war with Spain realize that this is a provision which should have been established at that time. That would have been "preparedness."

In the army rank and authority are indicated by insignia. It is for this badge of authority that the soldier looks when he receives an order. It was this very psychological phenomenon that brought into existence the gold bar on

the shoulder straps of the second lieutenant. In the training camps the soldiers thought that because he had no insignia they did not have to obey or salute him. There were constant breaches of discipline until he was given the gold bar. This is military psychology.

Insignia and title that are seen and understood are of incomparably greater value in securing prompt obedience, more especially where human life hangs in the balance, than a book full of regulations that have never been seen.

The ranks asked for in the Lewis-Raker bill are:

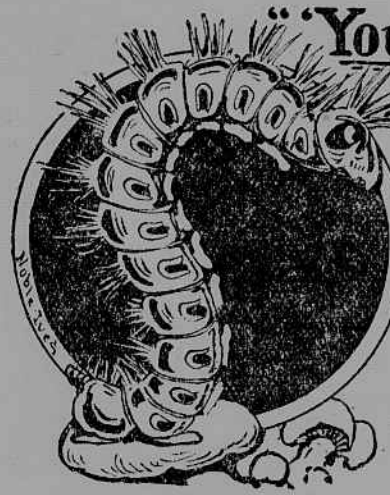
- For superintendent, rank of major.
- For assistant superintendent, rank of captain.
- For director, rank of captain.
- For chief nurse, rank of first lieutenant.
- For staff nurse, rank of second lieutenant.

Incidentally, it should be mentioned, this bill is so framed that there would never be any conflict with either medical or line officers.

This idea of relative rank is not without precedent. The sword master at West Point held the rank of captain in our own army. Relative rank is the system adopted by the Australian and Canadian armies for their nurse corps.

How They Settled It in Europe

In Continental armies the nursing has always been in the hands of the religious orders, putting the personnel in an unassailable position. In the British army the nurses have a recognized status. They receive the respect and obedience as well as the courtesy due officers. Furthermore, they are quartered and travel as officers. That is the tradition of the British army, and any one who has come up against British tradition knows that it transcends all laws. Australia and Canada, with New World conditions and New World ideas and ideals, but no tra-



"You?" said the Caterpillar, "And who are you?"

(Alice in Wonderland)

later transferred to the American army writes:

"The British do give a square deal, and they did treat us well, even when they perhaps found it hard to understand and love us at first. In the British army the nurses are given rank and position, and we benefited by it while with them. In the American army nurses have not had any official recognition, and are treated accordingly. We have noticed the difference. If it were not for the gentlemanly courtesy and kindness of many of our American officers we would have had a very bad story to tell. We do feel that we ought to be



recognized, instead of depending on somebody's kindness to give us our rightful place."

An American woman, accompanied by

a British officer of high rank, went to meet the first American hospital unit that landed in England.

When this officer saw the nurses struggling with their baggage he exclaimed, "Are not your nurses trained women?"

"Our army accepts only picked graduate nurses," replied the American woman.

"Then why don't they travel as officers?" Our nurses do," he said, "and so do the Australians and Canadians."

And the loyal American could only say that everything had been done so hastily that there had not yet been time, but that ranking for nurses would surely come shortly. The war is virtually over and the ranking has not come.

Many an American nurse travelling in Europe, both on duty and on furlough, has felt her country humbled, and herself and her profession humiliated, owing to being discriminated against in public places. Seeing her sisters of the Canadian and Australian armies honored and recognized has not assuaged matters.

Why Should Nurses Have Rank and Title?

Let us consider what claim our American nurse has to rank:

The requirements for entrance to the nurse corps of the United States army are higher than those of any other country. All of our Allies have made use of the volunteer "aid." The United States army accepts in its nurse corps only graduates of training schools of recognized standards. This means that at least two years, and often three, must have been spent in arduous training and study. The nurse then enters the army already skilled in the duties to which she is assigned, just as the graduate in medicine or theology or any other profession.

It is to the nurse in charge of the ward that the ward surgeon looks for promptness and accuracy in carrying out his orders. It goes without saying that she should have the evidence of authority to fulfill her responsibilities.

The rapid advance of medical science makes even more and more demands for scientific knowledge to master the complicated technique and for intelligent observation. As a result, the up-to-date nurse has spent almost, if not quite, as

much time in laying the foundation of her nursing education as has the medical student.

Australia Sees A Special Need

Any one cognizant of the dependence of the present day surgeon or physician upon the graduate nurse will ungrudgingly concede that the relation of the army nurse to the army surgeon is as that of a staff officer to his chief. Indeed, under the Australian system the recognition of this relation is evidenced by the fact that the matron-in-chief (who would correspond to our superintendent) is a member of the staff of the surgeon-general. She carries the rank of major, which we are asking for our superintendent.

The commanding officer of an army hospital recently issued a local regulation forbidding conversation between officers and nurses. As an army regulation prohibits nurses conversing with enlisted men, what was his idea of the status of the nurse?

Officialdom in the person of the Controller of the Treasury ruled that nurses held by an enemy nation as prisoners of war are not entitled to pay during captivity, on the ground that they are only civilian employees of the army. If those in high places cannot see that nurses, who not only face death by shot and shell but who battle with disease by day and by night, belong to the fighting forces of the army, how can we expect the enlisted man properly to recognize them?

Hostilities have ceased, but the war is not over yet for hundreds of nurses. For months to come they will be on duty not only with our army of occupation but in the various hospitals at home, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. They have already done a noble work. They have endured great hardships and have made great sacrifices. Many have made the supreme sacrifice. To accord them a recognized status is the least we can do for them. From time to time of late we hear public mention of the difficulties of the line officer in maintaining discipline. The nurses' problem becomes correspondingly greater. She needs the title and insignia of rank more than ever. The coming of peace has increased her responsibilities. She should have every facility to meet the added burden.

The "Mutilé" Smiles Behind His Mask

By DEEMS VEILLER

IF YOUR face were shattered by shrapnel, could you face life? There is a woman who is helping hundreds of men with war-riddled faces to do it. She is Mrs. Maynard Ladd, an American sculptress, living in Paris, who is making masks in the semblance of human flesh.

There is a story told of a young Irish boy who was lying in a London hospital with the upper part of his face shot away, and just one corner of his mouth left.

"Don't you wish you were dead?" a visitor exclaimed, thoughtlessly.

"Not while I've still got a corner left to tuck in my pipe," was the gay Celtic answer.

Reconstructive surgery is performing miracles for these poor, mutilated faces;

mask would extend only over the place where the chin once was. If the cheek was missing, then the scarred portion only would be covered. It was this idea that suggested the new face made by Mrs. Ladd.

Faces of Copper, With Silver Plating

It was a thing difficult of manufacture.

It had to be light, yet strong, of some composition which would not tarnish, and which would retain the color placed upon its exterior surface. After much experimentation, Mrs. Ladd hit upon thin copper as the material to be used. Then she decided to have the base plated with silver to give it a better finish.

Next came the problem of fitting the

cast Mrs. Ladd constructs another plaster cast of only those parts which are mutilated. A copper mask one-sixteenth of an inch thick is made from this.

The first fitting is now in order. This is just a matter of adjusting the mask to the head. When this is accomplished to the satisfaction of the soldier and the artist, silver-plating follows.

After the silver-plating process comes the business of making the mask look natural, the delicate work of making copper look like human skin. Artificial eyelids with a hole through them so that the wearer may see, and artificial eyebrows, inserted hair by hair, are used successfully on hundreds of masks. If eyes are missing altogether glass eyes are placed in the empty sockets.

Last the Complexion Is Attached

At the final fitting the mask is attached to the head, held in place by false spectacle bows, strings, or by a wig. The attaching mechanism is so camouflaged as to be practically invisible.

Painting the mask to match the complexion is the last step in its manufacture.

The entire process costs \$20. Mrs. Ladd, who is doing this work under the auspices of the American Red Cross, was born in Philadelphia, was educated in Paris and Rome, where for more than twenty years she worked with Professors Ferrari and Gallori. She has exhibited in Paris, London



The Lifelike Mask

but while wounds are slowly healing and new flesh is being grafted over gaping holes, the "mutilé" can face the world with a smile from behind one of Mrs. Ladd's masks.

His Face Is Made To Look Like Him

The masks are made of thinly rolled copper, silvered over, and painted in flesh colors. They are modelled from photographs of the "mutilé's" pre-war face, and are held in place by spectacle bows over the ears.

Captain Derwent Wood, an English sculptor, conceived the idea of making masks for men who were disfigured by their facial scars. Mrs. Ladd perfected this idea until masks were made which replace the torn and missing tissue so naturally that the man without a face is equipped with a substitute that is almost as good.

The original conception of Captain Wood was to make a mask to fit those portions of the face that were missing. If the chin was shot away, then the



Mrs. Ladd at Work

mask and making it stick. After varied experimentation, Mrs. Ladd hit upon the expedient of taking a plaster cast of the torn face, in addition to obtaining a photograph of the disfigured man as he looked before the war.

From the photograph and the plaster

and in this country. In 1913 she exhibited forty bronzes in New York and at the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington. She received honorable mention for her work at the Panama Exposition.

Her work in making faces for faceless men is more than a work of art, it is a work of humanity.

What Other Ladies Do

Too Many Educated Women

A clipping states that: "The German intellectuals do not want too many educated women. The Prussian minister of culture, in supplying the Diet with statistics showing a heavy increase in the number of women now regularly attending Prussian universities, deprecated the tendency of the sex to go in for academic education."—*Paduach Citizen*.

Kipling Is Right Again

Another mad wag is Miss Sarah Redington, of Santa Barbara, Cal., who, emerging from an uproarious anti-suff debate, joyously rippled: "The female with the speeches is more deadly than the male."—*Paduach Citizen*.

Those Frenchmen from Missoupy

The lake division bureau of communication has had to find out many things, but it never before was asked to pave the way for an international marriage.

This request came from the home service bureau in Paris, via Washington. An American soldier whose home is in this division had won the affections of a French girl, and her family, with characteristic French foresight, applied to the Red Cross to find out about the credentials and general status of their would-be son-in-law.—*Paduach Citizen*.

A Life Dream Realized

Miss Rheda Palmer, of Ontario County, N. Y., the last survivor of the first suffrage convention ever held, which was at Seneca Falls, N. Y., on July 19, 1848, cast her first ballot November 5, 1918, at the ripe age of 102 years. It

is said that to live long enough to see the ballot granted to women and to exercise the privilege herself has been the dream of her life.

A special conveyance and attendants were sent to conduct her to the polls, which were four miles from her home. On her arrival she marked her ballot without the aid of spectacles. She greeted large numbers of friends and neighbors and was the life of the party on the way home.—*The Woman Citizen*.

"Ladies" Will Disappear

"After the war there will be no more 'ladies,'" says Mrs. Pankhurst, the English militant suffragette, according to an interview reported in "Everybody's." "There will be no inferiors and superiors; for concession will be submitted to cooperation. When people cast their minds forward to the new world after the war, let them reckon on a civilization with real women really in it. What I mean, concretely, is that women will never darn or knit again. For darning and knitting is 'pick up' makeshift work, and women will never and can never return to 'putting in time.' Knitting and darning will be done by machinery. The homes of tomorrow will be full of fresh air, and healthy children besides.

"Woman will never again be resigned to one room when three can be afforded; to children at work who should be in school; to a round of bedmaking and darning when she has proved her economic worth. And her very maternity will take on the status of a protected industry."

Teachers Want Not Only Equal Pay But Equal Chance to Work

By MARY GRAHAM BONNER



sory education division watches over children who are absent from school and, if there is no reasonable excuse for absence, has the authority to compel attendance. The division often is forced to handle refractory boys and girls, and the work necessitates cooperation with the police, courts, corrective associations, etc. Frequently, the division officers are forced to work on cases the entire night and to visit all parts of the city.

The school census division deals with the education of foreign-born children. It keeps in touch with the immigration authorities, and by watching the ar-

ival of steamers is able to find out what immigrants are arriving. One of the duties of the division is to impress upon newcomers the need of learning English; it supervises children who obtain working papers and makes sure that working children under sixteen attend extra classes, according to the law; it also notifies the school census bureaus of other cities of the intended arrival of immigrants.

The child welfare division cooperates with all charitable organizations of the city. It investigates cases of real need, where the poverty of the family is the cause of a child's inability to attend

school, and provides assistance wherever possible.

How the Work Is Divided Between Men and Women

In the child welfare work there are only women. In the census work there are six women and thirty-four men. And in the compulsory education division there are no women at all.

Last July two examinations were held—a mental and a physical test. The women passed both—in fact, passed better than their male competitors in the mental test. Of the first fifty to take the examination, thirty-six were women



and only fourteen men. When appointments were made, however, only men received positions in the compulsory education division.

The salary in the attendance officers department begins at \$1,200, with expenses (carfare, etc.), and substantial increases yearly.

There are at present no vacancies in the child welfare work, very few in the census, but appointments are continually being made in the compulsory ed-

ucation division. The women teachers want the opportunity of doing this work and drawing higher pay.

Some time ago women were included in this division, but broke down under the strain of the work. Since that time, they have been practically barred from the division. The teachers claim that they have now passed the physical tests and should not be any longer barred from this work because of the fact that years ago a few women were not strong enough to shoulder its responsibilities.



OPPORTUNITIES for equal work with men are being asked for by women school teachers in the attendance officers department of the Board of Education. Officers in this department receive higher salaries than school teachers. The women assert, however, that when vacancies occur in the attendance officers department they are awarded and only men appointed. This department is a distinct section

of the Board of Education and comprises three divisions, compulsory education division, school census division and child welfare division. The pay is alike in all divisions, and is considerably higher than the salaries received by school teachers.

What These Divisions Do

Briefly, the work of each department may be summed up thus: The compul-